

PJI 1:10. Do Not Visit Scene

Since this case involves something that happened at a particular location, you may be tempted to visit the location yourself. Please do not do so. Even if you happen to live near the location, please avoid going to it or past it until the case is over. In addition, please do not attempt to view the scene by using computer programs such as Google Earth. Viewing the scene either in person or through a computer program would be unfair to the parties, since the location as it looked at the time of the accident and as it looks now may be very different. This case involve a location as it existed at the time of the accident, not as it exists today. Thus, you should rely on the evidence that is presented here in court to determine the circumstances and conditions under which the accident occurred. Also, in making a visit without the benefit of explanation, you might get a mistaken impression on matters not properly before you, leading to unfairness to the parties who need you to decide this case based solely upon the evidence that is relevant to this matter.

PJI 1:11. Discussion With Others - Independent Research

In fairness to the parties to this lawsuit, it is very important that you keep an open mind throughout the trial. Then, after you have heard both sides fully, you will reach your verdict only on the evidence as it is presented to you in this courtroom, and only in this courtroom, and then only after you have heard the summations of each of the attorneys and my instructions to you on the law. You will then have an opportunity to exchange views with each member of the jury during your deliberations to reach your verdict.

Please do not discuss this case either among yourselves or with anyone else during the course of the trial. Do not do any independent research on any topic you might hear about in the testimony or see in the exhibits, whether by consulting others, reading books or magazines or conducting an internet search of any kind. All electronic devices including any cell phones, Blackberries, iphones, laptops or any other personal electronic devices must be turned off while you are in the courtroom and while you are deliberating after I have given you the law applicable to this case. *[In the event that the court requires the jurors to relinquish their devices, the charge should be modified to reflect the court's practice]*

It is important to remember that you may not use any internet services, such as Google, Facebook, Twitter or any others to individually or collectively research topics concerning the trial, which includes the law, information about any of the issues in contention, the parties, the lawyers or the court. After you have rendered your verdict and have been discharged, you will be free to do any research you choose, or to share your experiences, either directly, or through your favorite electronic means.

For now, be careful to remember these rules whenever you use a computer or other personal electronic device during the time you are serving as a juror but you are not in the courtroom.

While this instruction may seem unduly restrictive, it is vital that you carefully follow these

directions. The reason is simple. The law requires that you consider only the testimony and evidence you hear and see in this courtroom. Not only does our law mandate it, but the parties depend on you to fairly and impartially consider only the admitted evidence. To do otherwise, by allowing outside information to affect your judgment, is unfair and prejudicial to the parties and could lead to this case's having to be retried.

Accordingly, I expect that you will seriously and faithfully abide by this instruction.